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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## CONSERVATION EFFORTS PROMISE BETTER HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Hunting and fishing opportunities during the next decade will be among the main beneficiaries of "an unequalled conservation record attained to date by the Kennedy Administration," Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today in releasing a report on Departmental and Congressional actions.

Secretary Udall said the actions to date represent "an all-time high-water-mark in conservation and resource management."

"Unprecedented vigor has been applied to programs for fish and wildlife resources that serve the sportsman and meet our responsibilities to protect and conserve this outdoor heritage," he stated. Among accomplishments cited were:

1. Establishment since July 1961 of four new wildlife refuges; approval of three more; enlargement of nine existing refuges and acquisition of lands for five new waterfowl refuge projects.
2. Opening of a new marine laboratory at Sandy Hook, N. J., to study management of salt water sports fish and launching of a reservoir fishery research program with establishment of new research centers in South Dakota and Arkansas.
3. Establishment of a new Federal Pest Control Review Board to study diseases and pesticides.
4. Administrative action taken to make public lands available to State and local governments at \$2.50 per acre for parks and wildlife refuges and similar action was taken to make surplus military land available for such conservation purposes.
5. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have made substantial progress in a joint program for protection of waterfowl production areas threatened by drainage projects, with new restrictions imposed on drainage of vital waterfowl breeding grounds in the Midwest.

6. An initial earmarking of \$7 million, part of \$105 million authorized for a seven year program, has launched an intensive program to acquire wetlands habitat vital for waterfowl preservation.

7. More than \$1,500,000, part of an authorized \$11 million program, is being invested in 1963 to enhance fish and wildlife in areas abutting Colorado River reservoirs and storage areas.

8. Working with Canada, heartening progress has been made in an all-out drive to eliminate the lamprey, which has virtually destroyed white fish and the famed trout of the Great Lakes. Some 72 streams tributary to Lake Superior have been treated, with a heavy reduction in the lamprey, and stepped up treatment of other Great Lakes areas is programmed.

9. With only 336 miles of the Atlantic coast and 296 miles of Pacific shorelines previously available as public use lands, the 87th Congress established three new National Seashores at Cape Cod, Mass., Point Reyes, Calif., and Padre Island, Tex., which will add 285 miles of unspoiled seacoast to our National Park System, a record unequalled in Park System history. These areas will provide future generations with unequalled opportunities for fresh and salt water fishing, camping, hiking, and in some areas, hunting.

10. Expanding demands for outdoor recreation also were met by passage of legislation under which the Department of the Interior will provide facilities at almost 200 Federally-operated wildlife refuges where such attendance will not disturb their natural functions. With the same goal in mind, regulations were revised expanding shoreline acquisitions on Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs.

11. To gear the outdoor recreational activities of 20 Federal agencies into one unified drive, and to provide sorely needed planning assistance to States, a new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is now at work on a national recreation program embracing Federal, State and regional plans.

12. To provide equitable financing for these programs, Congressional action next year is scheduled on President Kennedy's "pay as you go" Land Conservation Fund to finance land acquisition for outdoor recreation purposes.

13. Recognition of the growing need for knowledge, particularly among young students, of our fishery resources, was provided by Congress in authorizing expenditure of \$10 million to provide the Capital with one of the world's outstanding fishery research centers and aquarium.

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